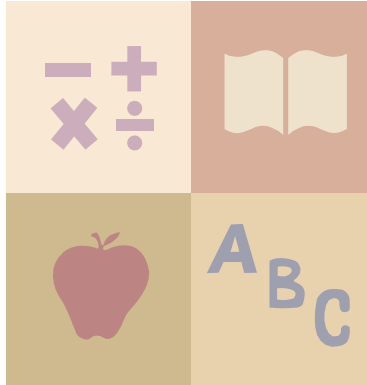


INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN A RESEARCH STUDY

Calling all K-12 educators who work with English language learners (ELLs) with disabilities!



Who is invited?

Any K-12 Special Education professionals, English as a Second Language or Bilingual Education professionals; assessment coordinators, paraprofessionals, or speech-language pathologists who have been employed in a school district for at least two years in the instruction or assessment of K-12 English language learners (ELLs) with disabilities.

What is the study about?

It is an online focus group conducted by the grant-funded *Improving the Validity of Assessment Results for ELLs with Disabilities* (IVARED) project¹. IVARED is a group of five state departments of education and two university technical assistance centers. The goal is to improve the ways in

which ELLs with disabilities participate in state assessments in order to obtain more meaningful test scores.

What will I be asked to do?

Participation is voluntary. If you elect to participate, you will be asked to share your thoughts about the assessment of English language learners with disabilities by responding to questions and participants' comments. This will require that you type your responses online.

How long will it take?

Participation in one online focus group during the 2011-2012 school year will take approximately three hours total time over one week. The online format allows flexible participation that can be done after your school day ends or on the weekend.

How will the results of the focus groups be used?

The information you share will be used to help develop an online training module to assist educators in the IVARED states in making the best possible assessment decisions for ELLs with disabilities.

Is there compensation?

All participants in the study will receive an electronic retail \$100 gift card (e.g., Target[®]) after completing the focus group.

Will my information be kept private?

You will remain anonymous. If you agree to be in the focus group, a pseudonym will be assigned to you so that you do not use your real name. We will not ask you to identify your school or give us any students' real names.

How can I volunteer to be the focus group?

To participate, please email Linda Goldstone, University of Minnesota, at gold240@umn.edu. Please type 'participant' into the subject field when submitting the email. The first 50 educators to respond from your state will be accepted.

¹

The Improving the Validity of Assessment Results for English Language Learners with Disabilities (IVARED) project is a federally funded grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, that was awarded to the Minnesota Department of Education along with the State Education Departments in Arizona, Maine, Michigan, and Washington. The National Center on Educational Outcomes and the University of Kentucky are technical assistance providers.